

of that for which treatment would eventually be required. And so it is with the quack disease. We should be no less "strenuous" in our efforts to eradicate this disease, even though it be at our own financial loss. The Board of Examiners will very gladly co-operate with county societies, but the board will no longer undertake the work of prosecutions. It never was the duty of the board, and was done mainly that the law might be demonstrated and the proper method of prosecuting ascertained. It is now the duty of county societies to go on with the work, and the JOURNAL sincerely trusts that they will not shirk this duty. Alameda has already started its machinery; San Francisco is about to take similar action, and retain an attorney for the purpose of energetically getting after these gold-brick gentry. Which county will be the next in line?

Are we never to have an end of this sort of thing? Pay a dollar-a-month-and-have-no-further-doctor's-bills! Great thing. Effect a large saving in the family expense account. Receive the attention of the foremost (?) doctors and surgeons. Magnificent! But what does the subscriber really get? He gets just exactly what he pays for. He gets a "dollar-a-month doctor" to give him just as little care and attention as a "dollar-a-month doctor" will give. Incidentally, some physician who will not stoop to this sort of work loses a patient; is injured by the man to whom professional ethics and right living mean nothing at all but "words, words, words." All this is apropos of the fact that several new "contract-practice companies" have come into being in the course of the past few months, each, apparently, a little worse than its predecessor. Some of the promoters of these cheap institutions are resident in San Francisco, and we believe that there is a by-law of the medical society of that county prohibiting the use of physicians' names on the published "literature" of such institutions. Cannot this by-law be enforced?

At least two more state societies are on the road to that proper state of existence wherein they will own and publish their own journals. **STATE JOURNALS.** New Jersey and Ohio have the matter under consideration, and probably will eventually undertake the work. Missouri has decided to come into line, and has commenced the publication of its official journal. In Ohio there is some little complication owing to the desire of a privately owned journal to undertake to become the official organ of the State Association. The journal in question is one with which we have no quarrel, but the general principle involved is bad. A state association should absolutely own and control its own journal. Under no other circumstances can

there be absolute independence and freedom; and if there is any one thing which the publication of a state association should be, it is to be independent of all but professional strings.

Another contribution to the literature on digitalis appears in the present issue. The suggestion by our correspondent that often the **INERT DIGITALIS.** selection of inert plants may be the cause of the trouble is certainly within the range of probability. Right plants often cost more money than worthless ones; and dollars are dollars. But there are houses with whom this is a secondary consideration, and it cannot account for all the trouble. Probably the real fault in the majority of cases is in the manner of preparation. The active principles which should exist in preparations of digitalis, and to which the remedy owes its therapeutic value, are in the form of delicate, unstable glycerids, glucosids, etc., and are utterly destroyed by improper handling or too much heat. A skilled pharmacist, working with properly selected plants of the right sort, ought to have no difficulty in producing an absolutely reliable preparation of digitalis. If physicians would only go back to the safe, reliable, ethical and decent paths which their feet did formerly tread, and not be led into the by-ways of new and untried fads, "preparations," unknown mixtures with what-they-are-good-for on the label, and other such nonsensical nostrums, three classes would be benefited—the patient, the pharmacist and the physician himself.

The JOURNAL is very glad indeed to announce that a goodly number of the printed slips of the amount of alcohol contained in various nostrums have been called for. **ALCOHOL NOSTRUMS.** This table was printed in the June number, and there are still plenty of slips for those who may care to have them. All you need to do is to send us a request, and they will be forwarded by return mail. The work of making the people understand just what they are putting into their stomachs when they take these vile alcoholic mixtures should be the duty of every physician in the state. If an individual will insist upon drinking, let him at least drink something purer than this stuff; he could get decent whisky for less money.

A. M. A. FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The report of the Board of Trustees, which is really the financial statement of the Association, published in the Journal for June 18th, pages 1635 to 1638, is a very interesting document, and well worthy careful study. The deductions made in the report from the figures presented are also worth considering. For instance, the auditor's statement shows: